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Description of the Water Use Efficiency Public Advisory Committee (WUE-PAC)

(A Sub-Committee of the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee)

Introduction

The CALFED Record of Decision (ROD), published in August, 2000, called for creation of a Water Use Efficiency Public Advisory Committee (WUE-PAC):

“The Department of the Interior will create a public advisory committee, as part of the new FACA [Federal Advisory Committee Act] committee, to advise State and Federal agencies on structure and implementation of assistance programs, and to coordinate Federal, State, regional and local efforts for maximum effectiveness. We anticipate that this advisory committee will include representatives of the agricultural, urban, and recycling steering committees, local agencies, and local farmworker organizations. The advisory committee will be established by December 2000.”

At its first meeting on December 5, 2001, the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee created the WUE-PAC and name Frances Spivy-Weber and David Buy as co-chairs.

This document describes WUE-PAC’s mission, composition, member selection, duties, and anticipated work products.

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Water Use Efficiency Element

The Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Program Element includes actions to assure efficient use of existing and any new water supplies developed by the Program. Efficiency actions can alter the pattern of water diversions and reduce the magnitude of diversions, providing ecosystem benefits. Efficiency actions can also result in reduced discharge of effluent or drainage and improved water quality.

Actions to be performed by the WUE Program Element include but are not limited to:

- ✍ Implement agricultural and urban conservation incentive programs to provide grant funding for water management projects that will provide multiple benefits which are cost-effective at the state-wide level, including improved water quality and reduced ecosystem impacts.
- ✍ Identify, in region-specific strategic plans for agricultural areas, quantifiable objectives to assure improvements in water management.
- ✍ Expand State and Federal programs to provide increased levels of planning and technical assistance to local water suppliers.
- ✍ Work with the Agricultural Water Management Council (AWMC) to identify appropriate agricultural water conservation measures, set appropriate levels of effort, and certify or endorse water suppliers that are implementing locally cost-effective feasible measures.

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- ✍ Work with the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) to establish an urban water conservation BMP certification process and set appropriate levels of effort in order to ensure that water suppliers are implementing cost-effective feasible measures.
- ✍ Convene an independent review panel on appropriate measurement. This panel will provide guidance that will help define appropriate measurement as it relates to surface and groundwater usage. The panel will prepare a consensus definition of appropriate measurement by the end of 2001. At the completion of this stakeholder/technical process, CALFED Agencies will work with the California State Legislature to develop legislation for introduction and enactment in the 2003 legislative session requiring the appropriate measurement of all water uses in the State of California.

Advise CALFED on the development and implementation of WUE assurance processes. These processes include Urban BMP Certification and agricultural milestones.

Mission and Objectives of the WUE-PAC

The mission of the Water Use Efficiency Public Advisory Committee is to provide recommendations to the CALFED Policy Group and agencies through the BDPAC on planning and implementation of the CALFED Water Use Efficiency element, as described in the Record of Decision, through the completion of Stage 1.

In this regard, the WUE-PAC will provide recommendations and guidance in the following areas [time schedule in brackets]:

- ? Selection criteria and priorities for incentive program (Loans and Grants) [ongoing through Stage I]
- ? Appropriate distribution of funding across WUE components [ongoing through Stage I]
- ? Emphasis, priorities, and general approach to technical assistance and research [ongoing through Stage I]
- ? Comprehensive and supportable assurances of high water use efficiency [by 12/31/01]
- ? A process for refining Quantifiable Objectives [ongoing through Stage I]
- ? An urban BMP certification process to include [by 12/31/01]:
 - ? A framework to evaluate the cost effectiveness of urban BMPs
 - ? An Appropriate definition of “At Least As Effective As” for implementing urban BMPs
 - ? A credible certification process for urban BMPs [to be implemented by December 31, 2002]

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- ? Methods and approaches for integrating WUE with the CALFED Science Program (including development of performance measures and adaptive management methods for WUE) and CALFED's water management strategy [ongoing through Stage I]
- ? Methods and approaches for coordination among CALFED agencies [ongoing through Stage I]
- ? Review of CALFED annual report on WUE [ongoing through Stage I]
- ? Provide a forum for exchange of ideas with agencies and other interests [ongoing through Stage I]

Duties and Scope

The duties of WUE-PAC will be solely advisory. WUE-PAC will provide advice and policy recommendations, in the form of advisory statements or documents, to the BDPAC with copies to the CALFED Policy Group. Advice and policy recommendations will incorporate and/or be responsive to input received from WUE-PAC members, subcommittees, and workgroups, CALFED agency staff, CALFED Policy Group, and the BDPAC. Policy Group, BDPAC, and the WUE Program Manager may provide direction to and ask WUE-PAC to address issues related to its mission and objectives. WUE-PAC may request and receive feedback from Policy Group and BDPAC on advisory statements and documents.

Subcommittees and Work Groups

WUE-PAC is not expected to have standing subcommittees or work groups. However, the WUE-PAC may request and receive information from ad hoc groups that are assembled by the WUE-PAC chair or WUE Program Manager. Ad hoc groups are expected to be assembled to provide an informal forum for stakeholders to provide individual advice or conduct fact-finding on selected topics. For example, the WUE Program Manager has assembled an ad hoc group to provide individual advice on agricultural WUE assurances.

Membership and Co-Chairs

The WUE-PAC chair (or co-chairs) and members will be selected and appointed by the Chair of the BDPAC, in consultation with the WUE Program Manager. Membership, as a whole, will be both balanced and diverse. The WUE-PAC chair (or co-chairs) will be members of the BDPAC. Consistent with the ROD, the WUE-PAC will include representatives of the existing WUE Ad Hoc Committee.

Selection criteria for WUE-PAC membership shall include:

- ? Familiarity with CALFED Program
- ? Working knowledge of technical and policy issues in Water Use Efficiency
- ? Willingness to commit time to prepare for and attend meetings
- ? Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively to engage and resolve complex public policy issues

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- ? Strong credibility within respective stakeholder group and in broader CALFED stakeholder community

WUE-PAC members will develop their advice through the operating procedure and protocol described below. WUE-PAC will have 15 to 23 members and approximately 8 ex-officio members with the following representation:

- ? Local Agencies or Councils (total of 6 to 10 members)
 - Agricultural
 - Managed Wetlands
 - Recycling
 - Urban
- ? Water Conservation and Reuse Organizations (3 members)
 - California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC)
 - Agricultural Water Management Council (AWMC)
 - Water ReUse Association
- ? Public Interest (total of 4 to 6 members)
 - Environmental Water
 - Environmental Justice
 - Tribes
- ? Business Interest (total of 2 to 4 members)
 - Urban Businesses
 - Agricultural Businesses
- ? Ex-Officio Members – Although any CALFED agency can join the WUE-PAC as ex-officio, the following agencies have expressed interest in serving in this capacity:
 - USBR
 - NRCS
 - DWR
 - SWRCB
 - USFWS
 - EPA
 - CDFA
 - DFG

Allowances

Members will serve without compensation for their services on the WUE-PAC.

Committee and Member Terms

The WUE-PAC is expected to exist through the end of Stage 1 (the first seven years of CALFED implementation), or until stated objectives have been completed, the subcommittee's work becomes obsolete or the cost of the subcommittee is excessive in relation to the benefits. Each

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WUE-PAC member shall serve for a two-year term; terms will be staggered to avoid gaps in institutional memory.

Operating Procedure and Decision Protocol

The WUE-PAC will be responsible for establishing and periodically reviewing its operating procedures and decision protocol. These procedures will include conflict-of-interest policies, and WUE-PAC members will be required to disclose their interests as they relate to water use efficiency discussions. Whenever possible, WUE-PAC will develop advice using a collaborative or consensus-based process. WUE-PAC work products may contain minority opinions as necessary. WUE-PAC will report recommendations and advice to BDPAC.

CALFED staff and resources will be made available for meeting facilitation. CALFED staff will prepare and distribute agendas, supporting documents, and meeting summaries via multiple media sources including email, web page posting and U.S. mail. Staff support will also include production and distribution of advisory statements/documents to the BDPAC and Policy Group. Additional technical support, as determined by the WUE-PAC Chair and in consultation with the WUE Program Manager, may be provided by CALFED agency staff or contractors. These may include preparation of individual analysis, technical context, or review of Committee documents.

WUE-PAC members will not have alternates, so they are expected to attend all meetings. Members are expected to serve their designated terms, or at the pleasure of the BDPAC. Members appointed to represent particular organizations or interest groups (see “membership” above) should report WUE-PAC meeting summaries to their constituencies and provide feedback to the WUE-PAC, as necessary, to ensure that effective representation occurs. If WUE-PAC’s deliberations attract media attention, WUE-PAC members or participants should discuss responses to any media inquiries with the WUE Program Manager and communicate and coordinate with the CALFED Program Public Information Office.

Frequency and Location of Meetings

Meeting locations are to be determined by the WUE-PAC according to convenience and practicality. The WUE-PAC, in consultation with the CALFED Program, may choose to establish a standing meeting location or alternatively, rotate meeting locations to accommodate members in various parts of the State. WUE-PAC shall meet at least four times each year and is expected every other month.

The WUE-PAC shall meet in public and provide notice of meetings at least 15 days in advance in the Federal Register and mailed ten days in advance to interested parties. WUE-PAC meeting agendas, supporting materials, and meeting summaries shall be available to the public by request and from the CALFED web site.